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U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 22 2016

EPA-REGION 10

I am the owner of DC Custom Silkscreening, a small business with 3 full-time and 2 part-time employees. We have been in business for 31 years, and we print on everything but fabric, whether it's metal, wood, paper, or plastic. As a longtime business owner and Portland resident, I have serious issues with the EPA's plan to clean up the Willamette River. When you're dealing with the Willamette, it affects the entire city. Whether you're right next to it or miles away, you will feel the impact. Any transportation that is stopped from going through the river will affect business.

This project is estimated to cost over \$700 million, and I imagine it will go well over \$1 billion in the end. That means a tax increase, which would hurt my business, and all others, tremendously. Anyone who owns a business in this town knows that you can't afford to pay any more in taxes. A higher tax rate could actually limit the amount of time I stay in business, and I've been here 31 years. For that matter, there are so many things that could be done with that billion dollars besides dredging up sludge from underneath the riverbed that I can't even begin to list them.

Given the economic costs of this project, I would think it would at least be based on the most up-to-date information. However, the EPA's plan ignores the most recent data, which indicates that more than a third of the toxins that once plagued the Willamette have already been safely buried. Mother Nature knows how to heal itself far better than we do. It makes more sense to help rehabilitate the portions of the river that are in extremely bad shape rather than trying to dredge the whole thing up and make things worse. What we need is a plan that isn't going to take 20 or 30 years and won't hurt the businesses of this town. We can't afford any more disruption than we already have. That's why the EPA should heed the concerns of local businesses and consider a less harmful alternative.

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Owner

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